POL 14 VIETS (112)

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Saigon 6326 9-18-67

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ACTION EA-19

INFO SAL-01 GPM-03 SC-01 RSC-01 USIA-12 H-02 NSC-10 NSAE-00 L-03
INR-07 P-04 CIA-04 DOD-01 SP-02 SS-15 IO-12 ACDA-00 PM-05 /

R 190650Z SEP 67
FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7111
INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK 4291
CINCPAC
AMCONSUL DANANG 979
AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE 2561

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR
REVIEWED BY Joan Ingle DATE 12/23/81
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C O N F I D E N T I A L SAIGON 6326

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

REFS: A) SAIGON 5648
B) SAIGON 6068

1. PHAN KHAC SUU CONTINUES TO BELIEVE HE WAS ROBBED OF VICTORY IN "FRAUDULENT" ELECTION. IN CONVERSATION AFTERNOON SEPTEMBER 18 SUU RECOUNTED SEVERAL INSTANCES

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OF CHEATING (WHICH HAPPENED TO BE THOSE DESCRIBED IN FORMAL COMPLAINTS TO ASSEMBLY, REF A) HE IS CONVINCED SUCH ACTIVITY WAS WIDESPREAD AND CONCLUDES THAT ELECTION WAS "100 PERCENT RIGGED". SUU BELIEVES THAT, WITH EXCEPTION OF "ONE OR TWO" GOVERNMENT LEANING DEPUTIES, ASEMBLY WILL REACH SAME CONCLUSION.

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2. EMBOFF WENT OVER USUAL GROUND, EMPHASIZING THAT ASSEMBLY SHOULD MAKE ITS DECISION IMPARTIALLY AND ON BASIS OF FACTS, AND EXPRESSING DOUBT THAT THIEU-KY VICTORY WAS DUE TO CHEATING. SUU SAID ASSEMBLY WOULD OF COURSE ACT OBJECTIVELY. HE SAID THAT SPECIAL COMMITTEE IS CONTINUING TO EXAMINE VOTER REPORTS AND HAS COMPLIED CONSIERABLE EVIDENCE OF FRAUD. SUU ADMITTED THAT MANY OF CHARGES OF ELECTION IRREGULARITIES WOULD REMAIN UNPROVABLE, BUT "PEOPLE" ARE WELL AWARE OF THEM. DEPUTIES KNOW, THERFORE, THAT IF THEY VALIDATE ELECTION, ASSEMBLY WILL BE THE TARGET OF THE PEOPLES WRATH. SUU SAID ASSEMBLY HAS NO DESIRE TO MAKE THAT "SACRIFICE" FOR SAKE OF THIEU AND KY. STUDENTS AND BUDDHISTS, FOR EXAMPLE, ARE ALREADY BEGINNING TO SHOW THEIR DISCONTENT. SUU DISAGREED WITH

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CONTENTION THAT SUCH DISCONTENT DOES NOT AMOUNT TO MUCH. REGARDLESS OF DECISION ON VALIDATION, SAID SUU, ELECTION HAS LOST ALL VALUE AS FAR AS PEOPLE OF VIETNAM ARE CONCERNED.

3. ACCORDING TO SUU, ASSEMBLY WILL NOT MEET AGAIN UNTIL SEPTEMBER 29. HE SAID THERE WOULD BE NO SPECIAL SESSION TO ANNOUNCE TEMPORARY RESULTS. SPECIAL COMMITTEE WILL CONTINUE TO EXAMINE VOTER REPORTS UNTIL 29TH, FOLLOWED BY FOUR DAYS OF PLENERY SESSION DISCUSSION OF COMMITTEE FINDINGS AND FINAL VOTE ON OCTOBER 2.

4. SUU SAID RECENTLY FORMED "DEMOCRATIC FRONT", OF WHICH HE IS NOMINAL CHAIRMAN, WOULD PLAY THE ROLE OF LEGAL OPPOSITION SHOULD ELECTION BE VALIDATED. IT WOULD WORK TO BRING ABOUT FREE ELECTIONS IN THE FUTURE. HOWEVER, HE LATER SAID THAT DEMOCRATIC FRONT IS ONLY A "TEMPORARY" ORGANIZATION. IT IS NOT A POLITICAL ARTY AND WILL NOT, FOR EXAMPLE, FIELD CONDIDATES IN LOWER HOUSE ELECTION. SUU STILL HOPES TO ORGANIZE A RURAL-BASED POLITICAL PARTY OF HIS OWN FOR THE LONG RUN, AFTER DEMISE OF THE DEMOCRATIC FRONT.

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5. EMBOFF ASKED SUU'S OPINION OF TRUONG DIN DZU'S RECENT DIFFICULTIES WITH THE LAW (REF B). SUU SAID MATTER HAD BEEN PENDING FOR A LONG TIME, AND THAT IN HIS VIEW THERE IS NOTHING POLITICAL ABOUT IT.

6. COMMENT: SUU'S VIEWS ON ELECTION HAVE OF COURSE NOT CHANGED. HE IN FACT SEEMS MORE CONVINCED THAN EVER THAT HE COULD HAVE WON IN FAIR CONTEST. WE DO NOT SHARE HIS BELIEF THAT MAJORITY OF ASSEMBLY IS CONVINCED OF FRAUDULENCE OF THE ELECTION. GP-3 BUNKER

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